



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO
GOVERNOR


SCOTT A. ANGELLE
SECRETARY

JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: James H. "Jim" Welsh, Commissioner of Conservation 

DATE: August 15, 2005

SUBJECT: Order No. AGC-1-05
(Sparta Aquifer, Areas of Groundwater Concern)

I have reviewed the Record of the Application filed by the Sparta Ground Water Conservation District within the context of the recently enacted Act 225 of 2005, which became effective June 29, 2005. Information contained in the Record indicates that the sustainability of the Sparta Aquifer is not being maintained and, if not addressed, will lead to serious adverse impacts to the aquifer. Based on this information, I have declared the three below identified areas overlying the Sparta Aquifer to be areas of groundwater concern, pursuant to definition and terminology provided in applicable Louisiana statute. Order No. AGC-1-05 supersedes the previous Order No. CGWA-1-05 dated April 28, 2005 in its entirety.

In the attached Order No. AGC-1-05, I have ordered that three important remedial actions take place immediately:

1. an aggressive water conservation education program shall be conducted,
2. owners of non-domestic Sparta water wells shall submit a monthly water usage report to the Office of Conservation showing static water level measurements when available, and
3. alternative sources of potable water should be vigorously pursued in order to reduce the amount of Sparta Aquifer groundwater usage.

Additionally, this Order recommends that further study be conducted by appropriate parties to investigate reported salt water encroachment within the Sparta Aquifer system. The Order issued today does not mandate any groundwater withdrawal restrictions on new or existing Sparta wells in the three areas of groundwater concern. Any necessary future water usage restrictions will be made on a case by case basis, with groundwater for human consumption and public safety as first priority.

The Order names and identifies the following three areas of ground water concern:

- Monroe-West Monroe Area of Groundwater Concern (Ouachita Parish)
- Ruston Area of Groundwater Concern (Lincoln Parish)
- Jonesboro-Hodge Area of Groundwater Concern(Jackson and Bienville Parishes)

Act 225 of 2005, along with prior Louisiana groundwater law, authorizes the Commissioner of Conservation to manage, protect, and conserve the State's groundwater resources. For additional information, please do no hesitate to contact Mr. Anthony J. Duplechin, Jr., CPG at (225) 342-8244.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

ORDER NO. AGC-1-05

AUGUST 15, 2005

Order concerning designation of areas of groundwater
concern in compliance with LSA R.S. 38:3097.6.

Pursuant to power delegated under the laws of the State of Louisiana, and particularly LSA-R.S. 38:3097.1, et seq., the following Order is issued and promulgated by the Commissioner of Conservation as being reasonably necessary to assure the most advantageous use of the state's ground water resources consistent with their protection, conservation and replenishment. This order is issued pursuant to Act 225 of the 2005 Louisiana Legislature, using the intent and amended language provided therein.

DEFINITIONS

"Application" shall mean the application submitted by the Sparta Ground Water Conservation District under Act 446 of 2001, and further considered under Act 49 of 2003 for review of ground water status of portions of the Sparta Aquifer.

"Area of ground water concern" shall mean an area in which, under current usage and normal environmental conditions, sustainability of an aquifer is not being maintained due to either movement of a salt water front, water level decline, or subsidence, resulting in unacceptable environmental, economic, social, or health impact, or causing serious adverse impact to an aquifer, considering the areal and temporal extent of all such impacts.

"Commissioner" shall mean the commissioner of conservation.

"Domestic well" shall mean a water well used exclusively to supply the household needs of the owner, lessee, or his family. Uses may include but are not limited to drinking, cooking, washing, sanitary purposes, lawn and garden watering, and caring for pets. Domestic wells shall also include wells used on private farms and ranches for the feeding and caring of pets and watering of lawns, excluding livestock, crops, and ponds.

"Ground water" is water suitable for any beneficial use percolating below the earth's surface which contains fewer than 10,000 mg/l total dissolved solids, including water suitable for domestic use or supply for a domestic water system.

"Sparta Aquifer" means that hydrogeologic unit in north Louisiana between the underlying Cane River Formation and the overlying Cook Mountain Formation.

"Sparta Ground Water Conservation District" shall mean that political subdivision of the state established by LSA R.S. 38:3087.132.

"Sustainability" means the development and use of ground water in a manner that can be maintained for the present and future time without causing unacceptable environmental, economic, social, or health consequences.

"User" shall mean any person who is making beneficial use of ground water from a well or wells owned or operated by such person.

"Well" or "water well" shall mean any well drilled or constructed for the principal purpose of producing ground water.

FINDINGS

The commissioner finds that:

1. The application was submitted by the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District on July 25, 2002.
2. It was determined that additional information was needed for the application to be considered administratively complete. Such information was submitted on August 15, 2002.

3. The application was determined to be administratively complete on August 23, 2002.
4. A public hearing on the application was held in the Ruston High School Auditorium on November 19, 2002.
5. Pursuant to Act 49 of 2003, designation of a critical ground water area is based on evidence substantiating that, under current usage and normal environmental conditions, sustainability of an aquifer is not being maintained resulting in unacceptable environmental, economic, social, or health impacts, or causing a serious adverse impact to an aquifer, considering the areal and temporal extent of all such impacts caused by at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. water level decline; and/or
 - b. movement of a saltwater front; and/or
 - c. subsidence in or from the aquifer caused by overall withdrawals
6. The areas identified in this order show clearly identifiable water level declines.
7. Draft Order CGWA-1-04 was issued on July 8, 2004 with a proposed effective date of July 1, 2005.
8. Public hearings on the Draft Order were held in Ruston, Jonesboro and Monroe on September 16, 2004, September 30, 2004 and October 7, 2004, respectively.
9. Order CGWA-1-05 was issued on April 28, 2005, with an effective date of August 16, 2005.
10. Effective June 29, 2005, Act 225 of 2005 changed the term "critical ground water area" to an "area of ground water concern." Such change has been incorporated into this Order.
11. This Order supersedes Order CGWA-1-05 in its entirety.
12. Further study needs to be conducted by appropriate parties to investigate salt water encroachment.
13. Users of Sparta ground water shall vigorously seek alternate sources of potable water to alleviate excess usage of the Sparta Aquifer.
14. An aggressive water conservation education program should be begun as soon as possible in Louisiana.
15. In order for the interests of owners of water wells which have not been previously registered to be known, the owners of such wells should endeavor to have their wells registered.

ORDER

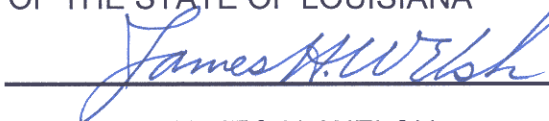
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The above Findings are hereby adopted and Ordered.
2. The portions of the Sparta Aquifer located in the following areas are declared to be areas of ground water concern:
 - a. Monroe-West Monroe Area of Ground Water Concern (Ouachita Parish)
 - i. Township 17 North, Range 3 East
 - ii. Township 17 North, Range 4 East
 - iii. Township 18 North, Range 3 East
 - iv. Township 18 North, Range 4 East
 - b. Ruston Area of Ground Water Concern (Lincoln Parish)
 - i. Township 18 North, Range 2 West
 - ii. Township 18 North, Range 3 West

- iii. Township 18 North, Range 4 West
- c. Jonesboro-Hodge Area of Ground Water Concern (Jackson and Bienville Parishes)
 - i. Township 14 North, Range 3 West
 - ii. Township 14 North, Range 4 West
 - iii. Township 15 North, Range 3 West
 - iv. Township 15 North, Range 4 West
- 3. Owners of each non-domestic water well in an area of ground water concern shall submit a monthly report (within 60 days of the end of the report month on forms to be provided by the Office of Conservation) to the Commissioner showing the amount of water pumped on a monthly basis and the purpose for which it was used. The static water level in the well shall be reported when such information is available to the owner.
- 4. When additional geological, engineering or other information is obtained which would indicate a required change or revision in the boundaries of the areas of ground water concern adopted herein, or which would indicate a required change or revision of other provisions of this order, the party or parties in possession of such additional information may petition the Commissioner of Conservation for a public hearing for the purpose of considering appropriate changes, in accordance with LAC 43:VI.301 et. seq.
- 5. This Order supersedes Order CGWA-1-05 in its entirety.

This Order shall be effective on August 15, 2005.

OFFICE OF CONSERVATION
OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA



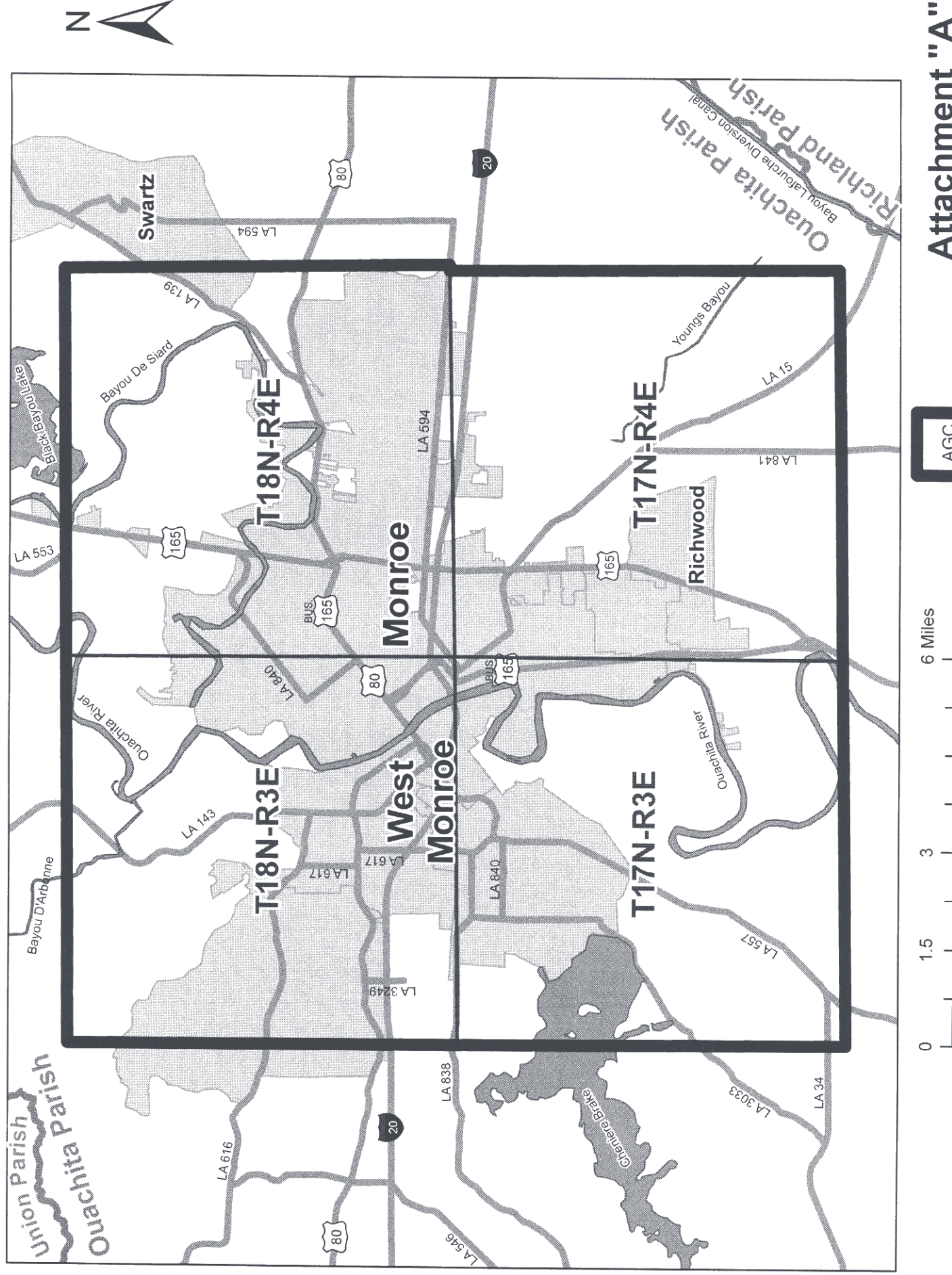
JAMES H. WELSH
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

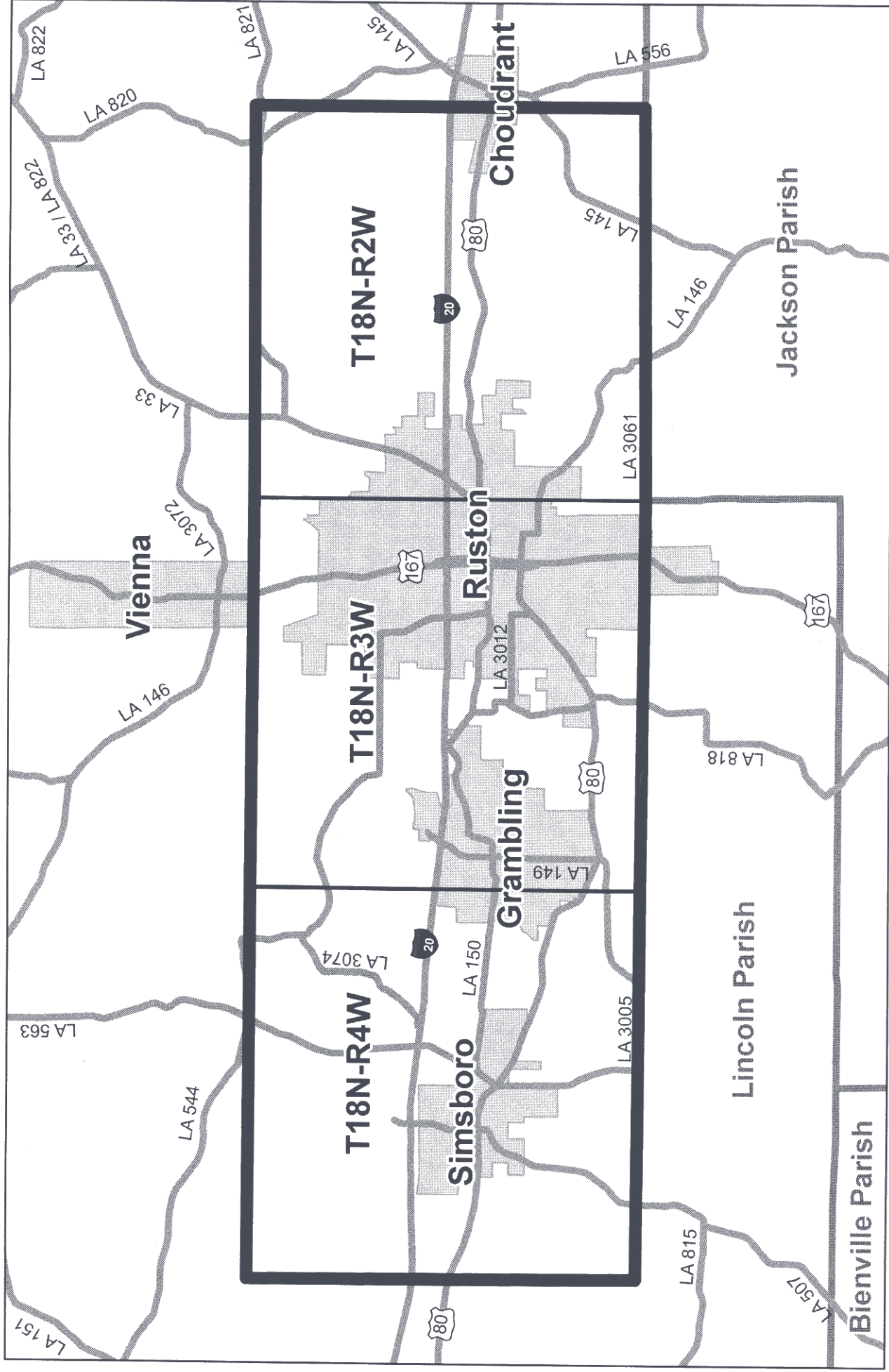
JHW/ajd

Attachments: State Exhibit "A"
 State Exhibit "B"
 State Exhibit "C"
 State Exhibit "D"

Monroe-West Monroe Area of Ground Water Concern

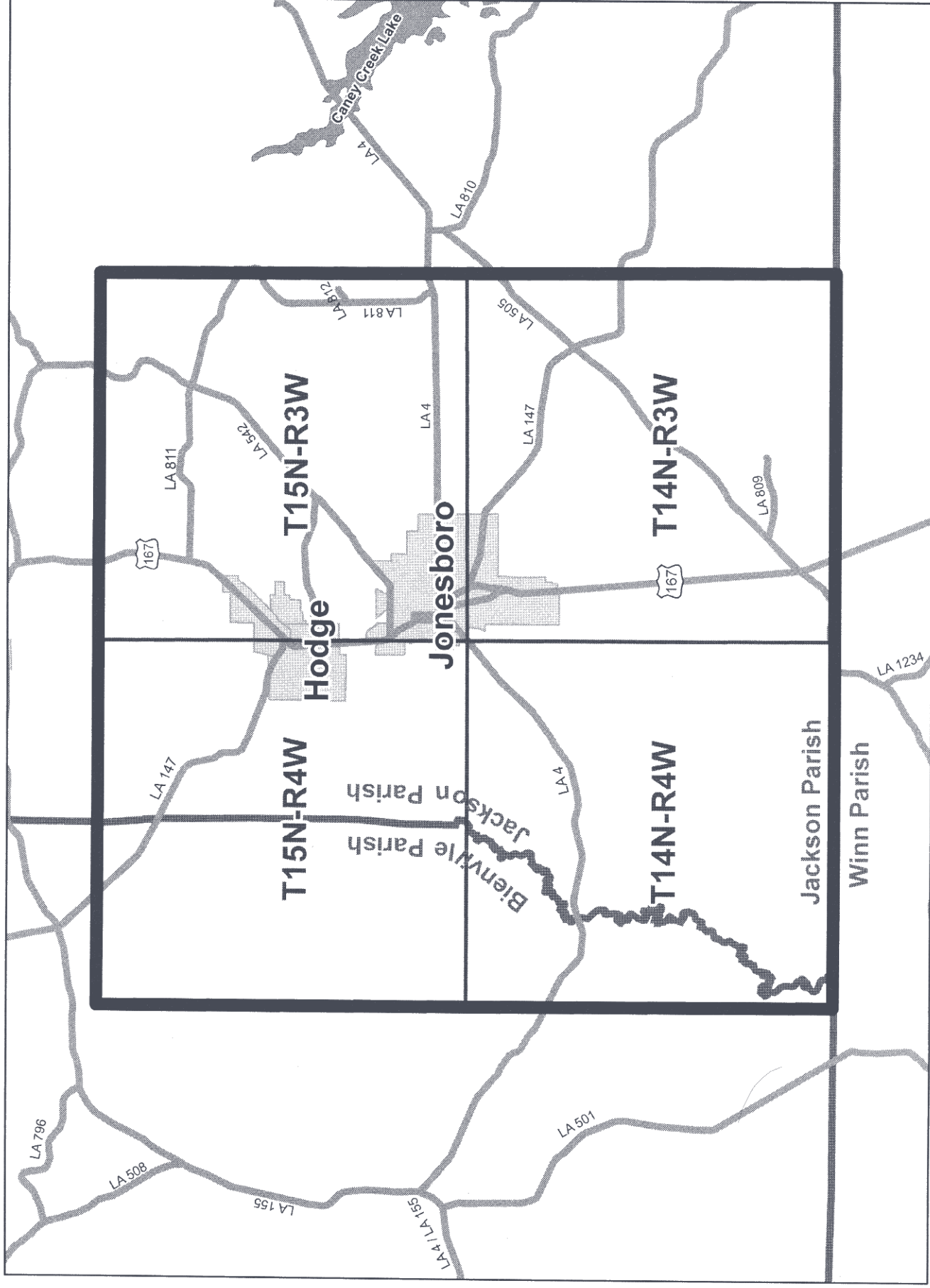
Order AGC-1-05





Area of Ground
Water Concern





Louisiana Office of Conservation
Ground Water Resources Division**Area of Ground Water Concern
Monthly Ground Water Usage Report**

Company: _____ Facility: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parish: _____ Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Month: _____ Year: _____

Please provide a water well location map for each well.

OWNER'S OR DOTD'S WELL NO.	VOLUME OF GROUND WATER PUMPED THIS MONTH	SPECIFIC USE	STATIC WATER LEVEL IF AVAILABLE

Reports are due to the Ground Water Resources Division within 60 days of the reporting month. Electronic versions of this form in Word or Word Perfect are available upon request. Reports may be faxed to (225) 342-5529, e-mailed to gwater@la.gov or mailed to:

Louisiana Office of Conservation
Ground Water Resources Division
P.O. Box 94275
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275
Attn: Mr. Anthony J. Duplechin, Jr.

This form may be photocopied. If more room is needed, please use another copy of this form and mark the page number where indicated in the heading. If you have any questions please call the Division at (225) 342-8244.

OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE

I, (print name) _____, the undersigned, hereby state that I am employed by _____ at the _____ facility and hereby certify that I am authorized to report groundwater use and other information as required by the Louisiana Office of Conservation, Ground Water Resources Division (Division). I hereby assure that all facts and documents submitted to the Division are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____